

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 28 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 11-14, 17, 19, 20, 22-24, and 26-28 were rejected under § 102(b) as anticipated by Ruger '270. Claims 16 and 18 were rejected under § 103(a) as obvious in view of Ruger '270.

Claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 16, 21, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the combination of Ruger '270 and Hiasa '595.

With the present Amendment, claims 9, 10, 11, 21, 22, and 25 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 13, 15, and 24 have been amended and patentably define over the applied references for at least the reasons set forth below.

As presently amended, claim 1 calls for the first filter media in the filtration device to be spirally wound with generally complete overlapping contact between adjacent layers such that the edges of the layers are aligned in a common plane. The first filter media comprises a laminate of a plurality of different material layers, wherein at least one of the material layers within the laminate comprises activated carbon. This unique type of filter media is not disclosed or suggested by Ruger '270 alone or in combination with any other reference of record.

The disclosure of Ruger '270 is quite clear. The filtration media used in the device is a continuous piece of fleece material. Ruger '270 describes that the filter may have a plurality of zones of the material with different filtering properties. However, the different zones and different filtering properties are merely a result of the compression or porosity of the fleece material. Reference is made to the discussion at column 4, line 65 through column 5, line 5. The different filtering properties of the various zones are achieved by varying the compaction of the fleece material. There is no teaching or

suggestion that the zones have completely different types of material layers. There is no teaching or suggestion in Ruger '270 that any portion of the continuous piece of fleece material is a laminate of a plurality of different types of material layers, with one of the layers being an activated carbon layer. In fact, in the "related art" discussion at column 1, lines 42 through 58, Ruger '270 distinguishes a prior art construction wherein different types of filter media are welded or glued to one another to form endless strips. This is clearly a teaching away from the use of a laminated filter media having a plurality of different material layers laminated together with at least one of the layers comprising activated carbon.

In summary, Ruger '270 is directed to making an economical filter construction having zones of different filtering properties by using a continuous strip of fleece filtering material. The zones of different filtering properties are achieved by varying the compaction or density of the fleece material. The filtering device of Ruger '270 does not contain any portion of filtration media having a plurality of different material layers laminated together. A laminate structure of any type is completely against the teaching and purpose of the filtration media in Ruger '270.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 distinguishes over Ruger '270 and is allowable.

Claims 2 through 8 and 12 only further patentably distinguish the invention over Ruger '270 alone or in combination with any other reference of record, including Hiasa '595.

Independent claim 13 has been amended in a manner similar to that discussed above with respect to claim 1. In particular, claim 13 calls for the first filter media to

comprise a laminate of a plurality of different material layers, wherein at least one of the material layers comprises activated carbon. It is respectfully submitted that claim 13 is thus allowable for at least the reasons set forth above in the discussion of claim 1. Dependent claims 14 through 20 and 23 only further patentably define the invention of claim 13 over the cited art.

Independent claim 24 has been amended herein to call for the spirally wound filtration media to comprise a plurality of different types of media with at least one of the types of media comprising activated carbon. It is respectfully submitted that this unique filtration media configuration is not disclosed by Ruger '270. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, Ruger '270 expressly describes that the filtration media is a continuous piece of fiber fleece material, with the different zones (i.e. zone 12a, 12b, 12c ...) having varying filter properties that are a function of the density or compaction of the fiber fleece. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Ruger '270 of a filtration media having a plurality of different types of media, with at least one of the types of media comprising activated carbon. The passage at column 2, lines 65 through 68 in Ruger '270 suggests that the filtering material may have an adsorption characteristic which varies in the radial direction, but this suggestion must be considered in view of the disclosure as a whole. At most, this suggestion means that the continuous piece of wound fiber fleece material may have cationic and/or anionic properties that may even vary in a radial direction just as the filtering properties of the fleece material vary in the radial direction as a function of the compaction or density of the fleece material in the respective zones. This is not a teaching that the media should include completely different types of wound media other than the fiber fleece, with at least one of these

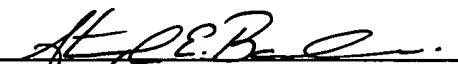
types including activated carbon. As mentioned above in the discussion of claim 1, Ruger '270 appears to disclaim filtration media wherein different types of media are included together by, for example, gluing or welding. The invention of Ruger '270 is focused on the use of a continuous piece of wound fiber fleece.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 24 patentably distinguishes over Ruger '270 and is allowable. Claims 26 through 28 only further patentably define the invention of claim 24 and are thus also allowable.

With the present Amendment, applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at his convenience should he have any questions regarding this matter or require any additional information.

Respectfully submitted,

DORITY & MANNING, P.A.

By: 
Stephen E. Bondura
Registration No.: 35,070

P.O. Box 1450
Greenville, SC 29602-1449
(864) 271-1592
fax (864) 233-7342